

Message Text

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H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BLANTYRE

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY PORT LOUIS

UNCLAS STATE 044234

E.O. 11652 N/A

TAGS: ETRD, EAGR

SUBJECT: SUGAR HEARINGS: PRESENTATIONS FOR AUSTRALIA,
MALAWI AND MAURITIUS

REF: STATE 26559

1. LOBBYISTS REPRESENTING SUGAR SUPPLIERS IN ADDRESSEE
COUNTRIES APPEARED BEFORE HOUSE AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE MARCH
5. STATEMENTS COVERING POINTS SET OUT PARA 3 REFTEL WERE
MADE.

2. ROBERT C. BARNARD, ON BEHALF OF CSR LTD., REQUESTED IN-
CREASE IN AUSTRALIA'S QUOTA FROM CURRENT LEVEL OF ROUGHLY
210,000 SHORT TONS TO 400,000 SHORT TONS OR MORE. HE SAID
SUGAR INDUSTRY, WHICH EXPORTS ROUGHLY THREE-FOURTHS OF TO-
TAL PRODUCTION, IS VITALLY IMPORTANT TO DEVELOPMENT OF
QUEENSLAND COASTAL AREA. WITH INTERNATIONAL SUGAR AGREEMENT
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ECONOMIC PROVISIONS SUSPENDED AND COMMONWEALTH SUGAR AGREE-

MENT TO EXPIRE AT END OF 1974, AUSTRALIA NEEDS INCREASED U.S. QUOTA AND OTHER BILATERAL DEALS IN ORDER TO MAKE PLANS FOR EXPANSION OF INDUSTRY. BARNARD SAID AUSTRALIA WOULD HOLD STOCKS EQUAL TO ABOUT 30 PERCENT OF QUOTA ESTABLISHED "ON CALL" WHEN REQUIRED BY U.S. MARKET, AND POINTED TO AUSTRALIA'S PERFORMANCE IN SUPPLYING U.S. NEEDS IN 1973 AND 1974. HE SAID AUSTRALIA EXPECTS CURRENT WORLD SHORTAGE OF SUGAR TO CONTINUE FOR SOME YEARS, AND THAT EXTENSION OF SUGAR ACT FOR FIVE YEARS WOULD SERVE

INTERESTS OF BOTH U.S. CONSUMERS AND FOREIGN PRODUCERS.

3. JERRY TRIPPE, FOR MALAWI, REQUESTED INCREASE FROM 15,000 TO 30,000 TONS. HE SAID THAT SUGAR INDUSTRY ESTABLISHED IN 1965 HAS BEEN OF GREAT IMPORTANCE TO DEVELOPMENT OF MALAWI, AND THAT CONTINUED EXPANSION WOULD BE DEPENDENT UPON SECURE AND REMUNERATIVE OUTLETS. HE ALSO STRESSED MALAWI'S INDEPENDENT AND PRO-WESTERN STANCE ON INTERNATIONAL ISSUES.

4. JOHN SHARON, FOR MAURITIUS, REQUESTED INCREASE FROM CURRENT 30,000 TONS TO 100,000 TONS. ARGUMENTS IN FAVOR OF THIS INCREASE WERE LARGELY BASED ON UNIQUE DEPENDENCE OF MAURITIUS ON SUGAR EXPORTS AND PERFORMANCE RECORD IN SUPPLYING U.S. NEEDS UNDER FIRST-COME, FIRST-SERVED ALLOCATIONS. SHARON ALSO POINTED OUT FRIENDLY U.S.-MAURITIUS RELATIONS AND FACT THAT IN RELATION TO TOTAL SUGAR EXPORTS, MAURITIUS' U.S. QUOTA IS DISPROPORTIONATELY SMALL.

5. WITNESSES WERE ASKED NO QUESTIONS BY COMMITTEE, WHICH WILL TAKE QUOTA REQUESTS UNDER ADVISEMENT.

6. TEXTS OF STATEMENTS WILL BE POUCHED. KISSINGER

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